

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:
Claims 1- 33 (Cancelled)

34. (New) A method for preparing one or more pleuromutilins comprising the steps of:
- a) culturing a pleuromutilins-producing microorganism in a liquid culture medium;
 - b) extracting pleuromutilins from the unfiltered culture medium with a water immiscible organic solvent which is 4-methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK);
 - c) concentrating the extracted pleuromutilins;
 - d) directly crystallising the pleuromutilins from MIBK and a miscible non polar solvent which is heptane.
35. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the extracted pleuromutilins (step b) or the concentrated pleuromutilins (step c) are decolourised using activated carbon.
36. (New) A method according to claim 34 for preparing pleuromutilin.
37. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is a *Clitopilus* species, an *Octojuga* species, a *Gerronema* species, a *Psathyrella* species.
38. (New) A method according to claim 37 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is *Clitopilus passeckerianus* NRRL 3100/DSM 1602, *Clitopilus passeckerianus* CBS 299.35, *Clitopilus passeckerianus* CBS 330.85, *Clitopilus pinsitus* CBS 623.70, *Clitopilus hobsonii* CBS 270.36, *Gerronema josserandii* CBS 309.36, *Psathyrella subatrata* CBS 325.39.
39. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is *Clitopilus passeckerianus* NRRL 3100.
40. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the extraction is conducted at about 10°C to about 50°C.
41. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the pH of the aqueous solution prior to extraction is in the range pH 6 to 8.
42. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein a ratio of 4:1 to 1:4 equivalent volume of MIBK to unfiltered culture medium is used for the extraction.
43. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the concentration of the MIBK solution used for crystallization is from 20% to 45% w/w.
44. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein the concentration of the MIBK solution used for crystallization is from 35% to 40% w/w.

45. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the initial temperature of the MIBK in step d) is from 45 °C to 60 °C, followed by cooling to from 25 °C to 35 °C.
46. (New) A method according to claim 45 wherein the initial temperature is from 50 °C to 55 °C, followed by cooling to approximately 30 °C.
47. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein 1 to 1.5 volumes of heptane is added.
48. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the crystallised pleuromutilins are further purified by recrystallisation.
49. (New) A method according to claim 48 wherein mutilin 14-acetate is selectively removed from the crystallised pleuromutilins by recrystallisation with ethyl acetate and heptane.
50. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein the concentration of pleuromutilins used for recrystallisation is from 20% to 40% w/w.
51. (New) A method according to claim 45 wherein the initial temperature is from 45 °C to 50 °C, followed by cooling to from 15 °C to 25 °C.
52. (New) A method according to claim 51 followed by heptane addition and further cooling to 0 °C to 5 °C.
53. (New) A method according to claim 48 wherein mutilin 14-acetate is selectively removed from the crystallised pleuromutilins by recrystallisation with MIBK and heptane.
54. (New) A method according to claim 53 wherein the concentration of pleuromutilins used for recrystallisation is from 20% to 45% w/w.
55. (New) A method according to claim 53 wherein the initial temperature is from 45 °C to 65 °C.